

## **ABSTRACT**

Transmissions within a communication channel utilized by devices of a computer network that are outside of a device's designated time slot are accommodated through the use of a clear channel assessment time. The clear channel assessment time takes into

5 account the device's designated transmission time slot within the communication channel with respect to those of other network devices. Thus, the clear channel assessment time may be a time period that is the product of a predetermined clear channel waiting time and a numerical representation of the difference between the device's designated transmission time slot within the communication channel and that of another network device that

10 completed a preceding transmission. The clear channel waiting time may be specified by a network master device as part of a network connection process and the transmissions within the channel outside of a device's designated time slot may be accommodated after all regularly scheduled transmissions within the channel during a network frame period have been completed.